

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Rudy Wright	Hank Guess
	Aldermen	
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Mick Berry, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Deputy City Clerk Sarah Prencipe and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. All Council members were present except for Alderman Zagaroli and Alderman Tarlton.
- II. Invocation by Rev. Bill Garrard, Retired United Methodist Pastor
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
  - A. Recognition of Paul Thompson Ernst Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 Southeast Program

Mayor Wright asked for a standing ovation for Mr. Paul Thompson for keeping his business in Hickory. He commented on the spectacular job that Mr. Thompson had done on the Transportation Insight property, that 18 months ago was just an old empty mill facility. He encourage citizens to go by the facility and see what a great job they had done. He advised that Mr. Paul Thompson, the CEO of Transportation Insights, had been selected by Ernst & Young, one of the four biggest account firms in the world, as Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Southeast program. He read and presented a Proclamation to Paul Thompson to congratulate him on his entrepreneurial achievements and contributions to the City of Hickory's urban revitalization efforts. He proclaimed December 15, 2015 as Paul Thompson Day in the City of Hickory.

Mr. Paul Thompson commented that accepting the award was quite humbling because he was in a group of finalist, and those finalist had created 70,000 jobs. He accepted the award, and thanked Council, and commented that he is just a guy with an idea, and a vision, but it is the associates at his company that makes everything happen. He stated that he didn't think that he deserved any of this, when you have the best team of anyone in North America. If they keep doing the things that they are doing, with the people that they have, that will be built to last. He commented that the award was for them. You may call it Paul Thomson Day, but it is Transportation Insight Day.

Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton to declare December 16, 2015 as Transportation Insights Day, and a proclamation would be made accordingly. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that he moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton and the motion carried unanimously. He advised that Alderman Zagaroli and Alderman Tarlton were not in attendance.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- A. Mr. Larry Pope thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He advised that he would speak about an issue that had been before them numerous times. He felt that it was very important for citizens, like himself, who were involved in the City of Hickory trying to do the right thing for the people who cannot stand up for themselves, because of fear, reprisal, and concern for their own welfare. He advised that he tells people all of the time that he is not afraid to stand before City Council or any other agency to encourage that agency, whether it is the City of Hickory, or someone else, to always do the right thing when it comes to the citizens of our City. He had said to Council, two or three previous times, what he knew about what was going on with Hickory Public Housing Authority. He had encouraged Council, who has the control on who is appointed to the Board of Directors for that organization to do the right thing because the Board refuses to do the right thing. He commented that Council had told him that there was nothing that Council could do, or would do, until the investigation was completed against the Hickory Public Housing Authority. He advised that HUD came in and did an investigation and found that there was a lot of things being done totally wrong by the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of Hickory Public Housing Authority, which now calls themselves Unifour Capital Ventures. When Council met with Unifour Capital Ventures, or Hickory Public Housing Authority, Council and the Mayor did not ask one question of their Executive Director, their Chairman of the Board, or their Attorney. He commented as you can see from the report that Council received on the investigation, that they did, how many improprieties there were that they could find, and how many investments that they had made that they could not tell where the money came from for those investment. Council still sits here on their duffs, not willing

to make any changes so that the citizens who live in public housing will not have to go through what they are currently going through and what they will be going through over the next several months. He stated that HUD has said that they will come back in six months to a year and do another investigation to make sure that the corrections were made. He commented that as they had said in their letter, a lot of the materials that they had told Housing that they wanted to look at was not available. He stated that was because he was personally told by a very reliable source that there were individuals after hours working in the office at Hickory Public Housing Authority or Unifour Capital Ventures, taking out trash bags of shredded materials and throwing them in the dumpster. He advised that he asked those individuals why they didn't go get those items in the dumpster. He personally knows that the FBI can put back together shredded items, because he personally turned over shredded items to them when Links was in existence in Newton, which was shredded, to keep the FED's from finding out what they were doing with the monies that they were receiving. He said it is time to unfold that rug, take the dirt that has been swept under that rug by City Council out, and get rid of the Board of Directors that will not get rid of the Executive Director of Unifour Capital Ventures or Hickory Public Housing Authority, whichever you care to call it. You still to this day don't know what the ultimate goal of Unifour Capital Ventures is. You don't care. You want ask, and you don't want to make a difference in what they are doing in the misappropriation of federal dollars. He thanked Council.

Mayor Wright commented that he had said this before, and it would be redundant, but there are citizens in attendance that have not heard this said. Once again they hear the term misappropriation. He always thought the term misappropriation involved theft. To his knowledge there had been no accusation of any theft. Council has taken these matters very seriously. Council has the unusual situation where they appoint the board members, and they can unappoint them and appoint new ones, but the only other thing they can do is dissolve the entity. That is the framework that Council has had to deal with. They do care, and do want to make a difference in the lives of the least fortunate among us. The matter of the shredded documents is strictly hearsay. That possibly could be true. Mr. Pope had said that he had heard someone say that there was shredded documents. Many of the people in public housing here are very satisfied with the service and the safety. Repeatedly you read about people being arrested because they are violating no trespass orders against them individually. Two in this week's paper. The Housing Authority had not done everything right; that is for sure. They are not on the right side of HUD; that is for sure. They have been pretty demanding of the standards upheld by their tenants.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of December 1, 2015

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton that the Minutes of December 1, 2015 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Seaver seconded by Alderwoman Patton and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reaffirmation and Ratification of Second Readings. Votes recorded on first reading will be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading unless Council Members change their votes and so indicate on second reading.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Guess that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Lail seconded by Alderman Guess and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approval to Award Bid to Asheville Ford Lincoln in the Amount of \$174,809.52 for the Purchase of Five Vehicles. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- B. Approval of a Contract with AMEC Foster Wheeler in the Amount Not to Exceed \$188,000 for Planning Services in Conjunction with the City's Brownfield Area-wide Planning Grant. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- C. Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 12. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- D. Grant Project Ordinance Amendment Number 4. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- E. Consideration of Text Amendment (TA) 15-01. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- F. Amending Chapter 18, Article VI, Sections 18-119 and 18-136 of the Hickory City Code. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

- G. Approval of a Vacant Building Revitalization and Demolition Grant for AKSS Real Estate, LLC. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- H. Consideration of a Funding Agreement with Habitat for Humanity of the Catawba Valley, Inc. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

Alderman Guess moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Guess seconded by Alderwoman Patton and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Called for a Public Hearing – For Consideration of Closing a Portion of a 25' Alley Located Between Main Avenue NW and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW. (Authorize Public Hearing for January 19, 2016)

RESOLUTION NO. 15-27  
RESOLUTION OF INTENT

A Resolution Declaring the Intention of the City Council of the City of Hickory to Consider  
the Closing of a Portion of a 25-Foot Alley Adjacent to City-Owned Property  
Located Behind Community One Bank fka Bank of Granite Building  
Between Main Avenue NW and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-299 authorizes the City Council of the City of Hickory to close public streets and alleys; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory considers it advisable to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of giving consideration to the closing of a portion of a 25-foot alley adjacent to City-owned property located behind Community One Bank fka Bank of Granite Building between Main Avenue NW and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hickory that:

1. A meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the 19th day of January, 2016, in the Council Chamber of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina to consider a resolution closing a portion of a 25-foot alley adjacent to City-owned property located behind Community One Bank fka Bank of Granite Building between Main Avenue NW and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW.
  2. The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Resolution of Intent once a week for four successive weeks in the *Hickory Daily Record*.
  3. The City Clerk is further directed to transmit by registered or certified mail to each owner of property abutting upon those portions of said street a copy of this Resolution of Intent.
  4. The City Clerk is further directed to cause adequate notices of this Resolution of Intent and the scheduled public hearing to be posted as required by G.S. 160A-299.
- B. Called for a Public Hearing – For Consideration of Rezoning Petition 15-02 for Property Located at 3061 Short Road. (Authorize Public Hearing for January 5, 2016)
  - C. Accepted and Entered Into the Minutes Certification of Votes from November 3, 2015 Election from the Catawba County Board of Elections.

Ward 1	Brad Lail	1,167
	Write-In	34
Ward 2	Ernie Masche	546
	Vernon Tarlton	873
	Write-In	5
Ward 3	Danny Seaver	1,151
	Write-In	19

- D. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of the Bid and Award of the Contract with Brushy Mountain Builders, Inc. in the Amount of \$319,189 for the Lakeshore No. 1 Lift Station Replacement Project.

Lakeshore Lift Station is a sanitary sewer lift station that is located on 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW near the intersection of NC Highway 127 in close proximity to the Alexander County Bridge. This station is approximately 25 years old and is experiencing problems related to age of the station and exposure to degrading sewer gases. The project consists of complete replacement of the lift station including the wet well, valve vault, pumps, control panel and all customary appurtenances. Simultaneous to replacement and rehabilitation of the lift station, the replacement pumps are being upgraded to allow for some future growth in the system. The current pumps are currently undersized for the service area and should be updated. In June 2015, Council approved Hulsey, McCormick and Wallace of North Carolina, LLC to complete design of this project. Design was completed and the project was advertised for bids. Brushy Mountain Builders, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder on the project. The project will be funded from the Water and Sewer Capital Reserves due to the non-completion of the project last year and the allocated funds were returned to Reserves. Staff recommends Council’s approval of the bid and award of the contract to Brushy Mountain Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$319,189 for construction of the Lakeshore No. 1 Lift Station Replacement Project.

- E. Approved the Request from Hickory Police Department to Award Police Badge and Service Weapon to Retiring MPO Ted Watson.

By authority of NC General Statute §20-187.2, City Council may award the service weapon and police badge to retiring MPO Ted Watson upon his retirement from Hickory Police Department on December 31, 2015 after completing 45 years of qualifying service with Hickory Police Department. Upon approval from City Council, the police badge and service weapon will be declared surplus and removed from the City’s fixed asset inventory.

- F. Approved on First Reading the Purchase Eight All-wheel Drive 2016 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles from Capital Ford of Raleigh in the Amount of \$213,472.

Hickory Police Department requests approval to purchase eight specialized police package emergency vehicles. After research and reviews of independent comparison studies the 2016 Ford Police Interceptor Utility all-wheel drive best fits the needs of the department based on a number of considerations. Capital Ford of Raleigh currently has the North Carolina State Contract for the 2016 Ford Police Interceptor Utility all-wheel drive with a base price of \$26,047. With added options the price would be \$26,684. Hickory Police Department recommends the purchase of eight all-wheel drive 2016 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles from Capital Ford of Raleigh on the North Carolina State Contract at a cost of \$26,684 per vehicle with a total cost of \$213,472. Funds are budgeted in the FY2015/2016 CIP.

- G. Approved Applying for the 2015 Assistance to Firefighter’s “Modifications to Fire Stations and Facilities” Grant.

The City of Hickory Fire Department requests approval to apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter’s Grant for facility improvements. The Fire Department plans to utilize the grant to install diesel exhaust removal systems in six fire facilities. Vehicle diesel exhaust emissions will be eliminated in the workplace after this type of system is installed in all of the City’s fire stations. The approval to apply for this grant request would give the City of Hickory Fire Department the ability to address serious health and safety issues which will ultimately benefit the department, coworkers, and the community. The total anticipated cost of this system is \$200,000 and the matching funds required by the City of Hickory, if awarded the grant, would be 10 percent, \$20,000. Staff requests approval to apply for the 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant “Modifications to Fire Stations and Facilities” which will provide for direct source diesel exhaust removal systems in six City of Hickory fire facilities.

- H. Approved on First Reading Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 13.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-60  
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 13

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory, that pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Government	46,000	-
Economic & Community Development	272,370	-
Other Financing Uses	1,370	-

TOTAL	319,740	-
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To provide the additional revenue for the above, the revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Contingency	-	46,000
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenues	259,400	-
Other Financing Sources	14,340	-
TOTAL	273,740	-

SECTION 2. To amend the Water and Sewer Fund the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	398,800	-
TOTAL	398,800	-

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	319,189	-
Miscellaneous Revenues	19,611	-
Contingency	-	60,000
TOTAL	338,800	60,000

SECTION 3. To amend the General Capital Projects Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
General Capital Projects	1,370	-
TOTAL	1,370	-

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	1,370	-
TOTAL	1,370	-

SECTION 4. Copies of the budget ordinance amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None
- X. Informational Item
- XI. New Business:
  - A. Public Hearings
  - B. Departmental Reports:
    - 1. Update on Cloninger Mill Park

Mr. Berry asked the City’s Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod to the podium to present Council with an update on the plans and naming opportunities at Cloninger Mill Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Mack McLeod presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation. He advised that the Parks and Recreation Commission was in the process of updating the Cloninger Mill Park Master Site Plan. He showed a map of the area. He advised he would also discuss the process for naming of the park. In 2009 the City retained the services of Alfred Benesch and Company to develop a Master Site Plan for the 63 acre park. That plan was accepted by the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council. He pointed out on the map highway 127, Cloninger Mill Road, the City’s wastewater treatment plant, Olde Mill Landing, and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. In May of 2015 City Council accepted a \$900,000 donation from North Carolina Outward Bound to keep the 10 acre commercial site as part of the park. He pointed out on the original plan the 10 acres that had been set aside for commercial development. Once that donation was accepted, staff retained the services of Alfred Benesch and Company to take the plan and update it to incorporate the additional 10 acres back into the park. Which would increase the park size to a little over 73 acres. He advised as a comparison Hilton Park is 74 acres. When Cloninger Mill is fully developed it will be a little less than that. Staff began the planning process to update the Master Plan with the Parks and Recreation Commission at their September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Part of the process was to get some ideals from the Parks and Recreation Commission as to what they felt

would best be suited and incorporated in those ten acres into the park and then make any adjustments elsewhere in the park. They had some potential recreational activities that could be included on those 10 acres. The first discussion that the Parks and Recreation Commission had was making sure that when the park is fully developed that there is enough parking. They discussed with the Commission 17 potential recreation activities, and talked to them about those. The potential recreation activities included: open play meadows, community garden, jogging/walking trails, outdoor fitness stations, disc golf course, sand volleyball courts, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe pits, natural areas, picnic areas, dog park, a spray ground, playground, mountain bike trails, environmental education areas, bocce courts, and a safe bike training area, which would be an area where children could safely learn how to ride a bike. Each item was then voted on for their preferences of how important the activity was. Of the 17, 12 received at least 8 votes. Some of the activities were already in the 2009 plan. Because of the addition of the 10 acres they expanded those. Every recreation activity that received at least 8 votes from the Parks and Recreation Commission members was incorporated into the plan. After their September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Alfred Benesch and Company went back and took those comments and suggestions and developed an updated plan based on that input. This plan is still in draft form. The Parks and Recreation Commission has not accepted it yet. They brought it back to the Commission at their last meeting in December for further input.

Mr. McLeod discussed the plan. He pointed out the 10 acres on the map that was reincorporated in the plan. With the addition of the 10 acres they adjusted the park entrance to bring it up closer to highway 127 for a better line of site. On the original plan they called for 49 parking spaces on the western side, and on the eastern side 25 spaces. They have increased that from what was originally shown in the 2009 plan from 49 spaces to 109 spaces on the western side. There is some additional future parking there. When the park is fully built out there will be a total of 163 paved parking spaces. He pointed out a building on the map and advised that when staff was reviewing the plan with Public Services/Public Utilities staff, they wanted to incorporate a future water resources learning center. That goes back to the environmental education component that was there. This would be a future development in the overall park plan. Because of the proximity across the street from the wastewater treatment plant this will provide an opportunity to provide that educational component. This would be an approximate 7,500 square foot learning center. The public utilities staff envision what could be learned at this facility would be things like the water cycle; how water gets from the pumps to the faucet; what happens when it goes down the drain and back to the wastewater treatment plant; ways to protect the environment; and how to be water smart. This would basically be an interactive type facility. It would also contain some meeting space, conference room type spaces. Some of the interactivities that could take place here would be children and adults pumping water uphill, testing water quality, how to locate an underground pipe, follow a robotic camera into a sewer manhole to see what it looks like, and fun things like turning hydrants on. An interactive learning resources center that fits in well with the wastewater treatment plant that sits across the street. He showed an area where the City's pump station is located for the wastewater treatment plant. With the additional acres they were able to shift the loop trails to get them away from the pump station. On the original 2009 plan they were right up against the pump station. They were able to back off and it gave them a little bit of distance between the pump station operations and the park operations. One of the areas that received high votes was open meadows. He pointed out an area about the size of a football field where different activities could happen. He showed an area that was named the "promenade loop" which was the bike training area. It was approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile flat. The ten acres is the flattest part of the property. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile paved path for children to be out on their bike. In the original plan the mountain bike course was approximately 11 acres, and now they have been able to allot approximately  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres for that. He pointed out the area where two playgrounds were planned and also playgrounds planned on the eastern side of the park. These playgrounds will be a nature theme and will be made of natural products. He pointed out three different picnic shelters, one which has a restroom facility, and two off to the side of the parking lot. He pointed out an area for a volleyball court near the picnic shelter. He pointed out a wooded area that was still flat. Some Commission members felt that it would be important to separate it and still allow access into that for some future development which will be a change to be made in the plans. He showed a slide of the entire park Master Plan including the eastern mode. No changes are being proposed by the Parks and Recreation Commission in this area, it is staying as is from the original 2009 plan. Once they get it on the ground they may have to shift some trails. From a planning standpoint, the planning process was just to incorporate the 10 acres back into the park. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be considering acceptance of the final park Master Site Plan at their January 12, 2016 meeting. They will be reviewing the associated

cost estimates at that time as well. They will be making a recommendation that will be forwarded to City Council for their consideration at a future meeting.

Mr. McLeod advised that during Council's December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting it was the consensus of Council for their desire to rename the park in honor of former Council member Meisner. He advised Council that there was a copy of the City's Public Facilities Naming Policy in their agenda packet. He discussed briefly what was included in the policy. City Council has the sole authority to designate the name of public facilities either in whole or in part. City Council will consider proposals for the naming of a street, park, public open space, building or an area within a park, open space, or building to recognize a person, organization, historical event, geographic location or feature, or a plant or animal indigenous to the Hickory area. Naming proposals originate in one of three ways according to the policy. City Council or an advisory board appointed by City Council proposes a name for a building, park, a street or a public open space. City Council accepts a donation of land, money, materials, and or services where the donor has stipulated a naming will occur to recognize that contribution. An application is received from a citizen or a group of citizens who wish to recommend a naming of a building, park, street or public open space. Of the three naming proposals, the one that will be coming to City Council for their consideration is where City Council is proposing that name. He asked Council for their consensus of how they would like the proposed name to be considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff proposed Bruce E. Meisner Park.

Mayor Wright suggested Mr. McLeod ask former Councilman Meisner.

Mr. McLeod replied that it could certainly do that.

Council agreed with Mayor Wright's suggestion.

Mayor Wright commented that Mr. Meisner may want his middle initial in there, he may not.

Mr. McLeod advised that they did it based on other park names. For example Glenn C. Hilton Jr. Park and Neill W. Clark Jr. Park.

Mayor Wright interjected Geitner Park.

Mr. McLeod advised that it was Rotary-Geitner Park. He advised Mayor Wright with the consensus of Council that he would speak to Mr. Meisner. He advised that a naming proposal that is originated by City Council for a park is forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a recommendation. The Parks and Recreation Commission will announce the naming proposal at an open meeting and then call for a public hearing to hear comments on the proposal. Based on City Council's request at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, at the Parks and Recreation Commissions meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>, they will discuss the process in detail and ask them to call for the public hearing. The public hearing will be held at the February 9, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Once the Parks and Recreation Commission makes the decision on the naming request, the Chairperson, or his or her designee, will present a recommendation to City Council for their consideration and ultimate action and decision. The recommendation for the naming request could come before Council as early as their February 16, 2016 meeting. He asked Council if they had any questions on the Master Plan update, or the naming process that they will follow.

Mayor Wright asked about the estimated cost.

Mr. McLeod advised that Alfred Benesch and Company are working on those cost now. Staff wanted to come back and present a draft plan based on the Commissions comments. The consultants now are developing the cost estimates. When the plan was done in 2009 the cost estimates were 2009 cost, so they are six years old. They are also incorporating the additional 10 acres into the park. They are working on those and they will be prepared to present those back at the Commissions January meeting.

Mayor Wright asked the cost in 2009.

Mr. McLeod advised that the entire park was right at 2.9 million dollars.

Alderman Guess asked if that was before or after the 10 acres.

Mr. McLeod advised that was before the 10 acres. That did not include the 10 acres, and those cost will go up.

Mayor Wright commented regarding the \$2.9 million; at that time the City expected to offset that from the proceeds from the sale of the land. He asked about the \$900,000.

Mr. McLeod advised that has been set aside to go towards the development of the park. The plan was that if the 10 acres was sold commercially then the proceeds from that sale would go to the park development, likewise the Outward Bound donation of \$900,000 has been set aside to go towards the park development.

Mayor Wright commented that he is thrilled to have the 10 highly visible acres on the corner as part of the park. We like merchants, we like retail, but if the demand is there they will find a place.

Mr. McLeod thanked Council for their time.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**BOND IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION**

Ward 2 (Alderman Tarlton Appoints)      Gayle Schwarz Resigned  
(3 year term expires 2-2-2018)

Ward 5 (Alderman Zagaroli Appoints)      Jeff Hale Resigned  
(3 year term expires 2-2-2018)

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Other Minority      VACANT

Other Minority      VACANT

**HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)

(Appointed by City Council)

Burke County (Mayor to Nominate)      VACANT Since 8-6-2008

Brookford (Mayor to Nominate)      VACANT Since 6-2006

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)

(8) Positions      VACANT

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

At-Large Minority      VACANT

**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 2      VACANT

Ward 3      VACANT

At-Large (Mayor Nominates)      VACANT

Mayor Wright nominated Laura Costello to Public Art Commission, At-Large Representative.

**RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Ward 3      VACANT

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Hickory Career Arts Magnet      VACANT

**WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS POLICY BOARD  
DELEGATE**

Nominate Delegate and Alternate

Alderman Meisner is current Delegate

Alderwoman Patton is current Alternate

Mayor Wright nominated Alderwoman Patton as the delegate to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board.

Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderman Lail approval of the above nominations. The motion carried unanimously.



Mayor Wright nominated Alderman Tarlton as the alternate to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board.

Mayor Wright moved, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of Alderman Tarlton as the Alternate to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Policy Board. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

XII. Matters Not on Agenda (requires majority vote of Council to consider)

XIII. General Comments by Members of Council, City Manager or City Attorney of a Non-Business Nature

Mayor Wright commented that the ribbon cutting was held for the Catawba Wastewater Treatment Plant which is owned and operated by the City of Hickory. It will be capable of accommodating 700,000 commercial square feet and 2,000 houses.

City Manager Mick Berry advised 1.5 million gallons.

Mayor Wright wished all the Council members, Mr. Crone, Mr. Berry, and staff, a Merry Christmas. He extended to all of the citizens of Hickory a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk